S.T.D. facilities in Uttar Pradesh

2531. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for extending STD facilities to some more cities in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following stations in Uttar Pradesh are proposed to be provided with STD facility during the current financial year:—

Azamgarh, Ballia, Bahraich, Barabanki, Chamoli (Gopeswar), Deoria, Gonda, Hardoi; Uttarkashi.

***Telephone facilities to villages in* Dibrugarh Distt. of Assam**

2532. *SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:* Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Dibrugarh district of Assam which are likely to be provided with telephone facilities during the years 1989-90; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Thirty villages in Dibrugarh District are likely to be provided with telephone facilities during 1989-90.

(b) No separate funds are allocated for this purpose. The expenditure is met from the lump sum grant placed at the disposal of circles.

Decline in birth rate

2533. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 62 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1989 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Govt. to bring down the birth rate and to monitor the progress at National and State level, Statewise;

(b) what are the details of funds provided for checking population growth during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) what is the number of complaints received regarding Government policy on population control during the said plan giving the nature of those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Family Welfare Programme is the main tool of population control in India. The Programme has been further strengthened and the delivery of Family Welfare including Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services has been integrated with the delivery of general health care services. With a view to bringing down the birth rate further, more emphasis is being laid on popularising spacing methods among the younger age group couples. The focus of sterilisation is being shifted to cover younger age group couples with two or less children. The Maternal and Child Health Programme would be suitably expanded and strengthened especially the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) to achieve a substantial improvement in child survival and development and ensuring better health to mothers. Special emphasis is being laid on improving the quality of services especially the follow-up of sterilization and MCH services. The Information, Education & Communication Programme has been further strengthened to propagate 'Two Child Norm' and to provide education at various levels. Efforts are being made to make Population Control Programme a truly National Programme where-